



**Michigan Supreme Court
State Court Administrative Office**

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John D. Ferry, Jr., State Court Administrator

DATE: August 28, 2003

TO: All Probate Judges and Registers

FROM: John D. Ferry, Jr.
State Court Administrator

SUBJ: State Court Administrative Memorandum
2003-09 Uniformity of Forms in Probate Court

It has come to our attention that various probate courts are requiring the use of forms that have not been authorized by the Supreme Court. As a reminder, MCL 600.855 states:

For the purpose of achieving uniformity of forms throughout this state in the probate court, effective July 1, 1979, **only** forms approved by the supreme court or the state court administrator **shall** be used. (Emphasis added)

[*Case File Management Standards of the State Court Administrative Office*](#), Component 32: Forms and Reports Management provides, "**Mandating Use of Forms**: Unless specifically required by statute or court rule, the court may not mandate the use of a specific form, whether SCAO approved or locally developed."

Please review the forms that are currently being used in your court, and make sure that they comply with MCL 600.855. For more information, see [*Michigan Court Administration Reference Guide*](#) section 8-06: State Court Administrative Office Forms. This section provides the proper form development process.